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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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APR 23 1997

Those on Attached List:

COLUMBIA RIVER COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRCIA)

Thank you for the letter to me from the CRCIA Management Team, same subject as above, dated April 22, 1997, providing budget and related information about Tribal and stakeholder expectations for the CRCIA follow-on work. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL), is cognizant of the work being proposed, thanks in part to your informative briefing provided to the Site Management Board on March 17, 1997. RL appreciates the budget detail provided in the April 22, 1997, letter, and also appreciates the cooperation of the CRCIA Team in working with DOE, Bechtel Hanford, Inc., Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and others in developing this information.

While supportive of the comprehensive assessment concept, DOE continues to be concerned about the timing, implementation cost and priority of the effort as defined. This is consistent with RL's position as voiced in an RL letter to Ms. Marilyn B. Reeves, Hanford Advisory Board, from Ms. Linda Bauer, Assistant Manager for Environmental Restoration, same subject as above, dated February 24, 1997. RL is particularly concerned with respect to diverting funds from remedial work underway or needed. RL also has a concern about performing the assessment based on some of the assumptions included in CRCIA Management Team letter, such as obtaining the first, full analysis results within three years, prior to collection of key data, such as vadoze zone contamination and transport. In our view, it may be imprudent to set such an artificial target date.

RL will provide recommendations regarding CRCIA follow-on work in compliance with the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Milestone M-15-80B, due by July 31, 1997. These recommendations will give full consideration of all information provided by the CRCIA Team.

Allocations of the FY 1998 budget will be based on priorities defined by the Tri-Party Agreement signatory agencies. This process is not complete. Therefore, RL cannot provide specific information or assurances regarding CRCIA follow-on funding in advance of the deliberations which will be taking place to meet the M-15-80B Milestone. In the meantime, DOE intends to continue working closely with members of the CRCIA Team to obtain additional pertinent information regarding potential follow-on, and to continue to provide the organizations represented by the CRCIA Team with additional opportunities to participate in the budget and Multi-Year Work Plan preparation processes, where there will be further opportunities for discussion.

Addressees - Letter dated: JUN 13 1997

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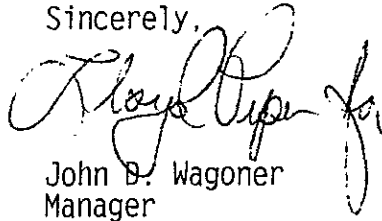
Addressees

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JUN 13 1997

If you or your staff have questions, please contact me, or Mr. Bob Stewart,
CRCIA Project Manager, at (509) 376-6192.

Sincerely,



John D. Wagoner
Manager

GWP:RKS

cc: M. Blazek, Oregon DOE
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